

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US/ITALIAN MEETING ON "ITALY IN EUROPE"

1. LAST FALL COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS SCHEDULED SEMINAR ON ITALY WHICH WAS ABORTED BECAUSE OUR VISA POLICY EXCLUDED PARTICIPATION OF PCI MEMBERS. SEMINAR FINALLY TOOK PLACE LAST WEEKEND IN BOLOGNA AND WAS CO-SPONSORED BY CFR, HOHN HOPKINS CENTER IN BOLOGNA, AND ROME'S ITALIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. TITLE OF THE THREE-DAY MEETING WAS "ITALY AND THE CHANGING EUROPEAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP" BUT SUBJECT WHICH GOT MOST ATTENTION WAS THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI).

2. ON PCI ISSUE, OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT, IN FORMAL DISCUSSION, LITTLE WAS SAID THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE PCI REPS TO EXPECT EARLY CHANGE IN USG ATTITUDE AND POLICIES. THE ISSUE WAS DIRECTLY ADDRESSED IN A PAPER BY SUZANNE BERGER. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS AND IN INTERVIEW WITH PAESE SERA (COMMUNIST DAILY NEWSPAPER), PETER LANGE EXPRESSED DIFFERENT
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VIEW. HE SAID THAT PCI REPS COULD HAVE COME AWAY

WITH IMPRESSION THAT AMERICANS SEE PCI AS HAVING CHANGED AND AS MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION. LANGE STRONGLY BELIEVES IN THE NEED FOR A DIALOGUE BETWEEN AMERICA AND THE PCI WHICH HE THINKS WILL BE USEFUL TO BOTH. HE FORESEES THAT AMERICAN "REPRESENTATIVES" WILL IN THE COMING MONTHS VISIT ITALY AND WILL MEET WITH THE PCI. THIS HE CHARACTERIZES AS A STEP FORWARD.

3. ON NATO, PCI REPS CONFIRMED THE CURRENT PCI POSITION THAT ITALY'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO MUST NOT CHANGE. SEGRE(PCI): THE PCI RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR NATO WITHIN "THE PRESENT MILITARY AND STRATEGIC BALANCE; PART OF THIS BALANCE OBVIOUSLY INCLUDES THE US FORCES NOW IN ITALY AND THEIR BASES". APART FROM THESE GENERALITIES, SEGRE REPORTEDLY REVEALED UNFAMILIARITY WITH THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE NATO RELATIONSHIP AND MISSION. FOR EXAMPLE, CONG. LES ASPIN GAVE A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE CURRENT SOVIET BUILDUP IN EUROPE AND CONCLUDED BY ASKING SEGRE FOR HIS PARTY'S VIEWS ON THE PROBLEMS THAT BUILDUP PRESENTS FOR NATO. SEGRE DEFERRED ON THIS AND OTHER QUESTION (E.G., EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY, RAW MATERIAL AND THE THIRD WORLD, NATURE OF EEC COOPERATION WITH ITALY) ADMITTING THAT HIS PARTY HAS AN "INADEQUATE BACKGROUND" ON THESE ISSUES. SOME PARTICIPANTS (E. G. , ROBER SCHAETZEL) REPORTED THAT SEGRE AND PEGGIO HAD A TENDENCY IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS TO SLIDE OFF HARD QUESTIONS.

4. BOLOGNA MEETING GOT NO ATTENTION FROM PRESS UNTIL IL RESTO DEL CARLINO (CONSERVATIVE BOLOGNA DAILY) PRINTED FRONT PAGE STORY ON NOVEMBER 21 SUMMARIZING SOME OF THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE PCI, THE ITALIAN CRISIS, AND AMERICAN ATTITUDES. IL RESTO ALSO PUBLISHED A LONG EXCERPT FROM SUZANNE BERGER'S PAPER. UNITA (PCI PAPER) REPORTED FACT OF CONFERENCE WITHOUT COMMENT, AND PAESE SERA LIMITED ITSELF TO PRINTING INTERVIEW WITH LANGE MENTIONED ABOVE. OTHER PAPERS' COVERAGE HAS BEEN LIMITED MOSTLY TO REPETITION OF CONTENTS OF IL RESTO ARTICLE, WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT.

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5. AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED NAGORSKI (CFR), TH CONG. LES ASPIN, RICHARD HOLBROOKE (FOREIGN POLICY JOURNAL), SUZANNE BERGER (MIT), PETER LANGE (HARVARD), ROBERT SCHAETZEL, MAYNARD PARKER (NEWSWEEK). ITALIAN PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED CESARE MERLINI (IAI), GIOLITTI (PSI), GRANELLI (DC), GIOGIO LA MALFA (PRI), PEGGIO (PCI), SEGRE (PCI), SPINELLI (PCI-INDEPENDENT) AND ARRIGO LEVI (LA STAMPA).

6. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TO EUR/WE FULL LIST OF
PARTICIPANTS, AGENDA, SUZANNE BERGER PAPER, IL
RESTO AND PAESE SERA ARTICLES, PAPERS BY SCHAEZEL,
MERLINI, DE CECCO, AND SPINELLI.VOLPE

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